

Cause-and-Effect Essay

Writing Workshop

Drafting and Elaboration

The paragraph below is from the draft of a cause-and-effect essay on the failure of Prohibition. Use the Suggestions for Elaboration, information from the Reader's Notebook below, and your own ideas to clarify the relationships being discussed.

Draft

In 1919 an amendment to the Constitution prohibited the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages. In 1933 this amendment was repealed. One reason for the failure of Prohibition can be traced to a change in attitudes after World War I. There were differences between generations. The young people were experiencing boom times and did not share the self-sacrificing ways of older adults who had voted for Prohibition. The new generation felt that individual freedom was more important than controlling alcohol.

Suggestions for Elaboration

- Clarify the positions of the different generations.
- Include details on the different circumstances of each generation.
- Explain why the two groups viewed alcohol differently.
- Explain the connection between "individual freedom" and "controlling alcohol."

READER'S NOTEBOOK

■ The generation that had voted for Prohibition came from a more puritanical age and valued hard work above all. ■ The younger people knew little of privation or struggle and longed for fun. ■ Alcoholic beverages were strictly rationed during World War I, so Prohibition didn't bother most adults. ■ The generation of "the Roaring Twenties" rebelled against the strict rules of their parents, including rules concerned with drinking. ■ The older people viewed alcohol as part of an immoral culture—saloons were seen as centers of vice. ■ The younger people felt that government should not legislate what anyone ate or drank, that such legislation violated basic freedoms.